

Korea, and Guam, and of course right here at home, USO centers are visited more than 7 million times a year by servicemembers and their families. These USO centers allow traveling servicemembers and their families to have a place to enjoy some of the comforts of home, and they are an integral part of the USO's success.

Mr. Speaker, assisting our servicemembers and fighting for our veterans as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as Founding Co-Chair of the USO Congressional Caucus is my greatest honor serving in Congress. The men and women who put on the uniform choose a life of selflessness, putting their service to our Nation above all else. As a grateful Nation, we have a duty and responsibility to support them in any way possible, and there is no greater example of civilians coming together to show our recognition and support for our servicemembers than the USO. The USO keeps our brave men and women in uniform driving on, while adhering to that simple promise made by President Lincoln so many years ago: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle." My wife Vicki and I congratulate the USO on their 75th anniversary, and thank the dedicated volunteers and all those who work with the USO to help show our Nation's eternal gratitude to our servicemembers and their families "until everyone comes home."

IN HONOR OF PASTOR WILLIE E.
MANLEY

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Willie E. Manley, a true leader and servant of the community of San Diego. Pastor Manley passed away on Friday, February 2, 2016, in his beloved city of San Diego.

Pastor Manley was born in 1933 in Stephens, Arkansas. In 1966, he left his congregation in chilly Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to conduct a revival in San Diego. On May 4, 1973, he started his pastoral duties at the Greater Life Baptist Church of San Diego, which he founded and served as pastor emeritus.

Pastor Manley was well known throughout the church and civic community for his honesty and integrity. Many residents in the San Diego community would call on him for answers and solutions. He was a man of great strength and courage. One who did not boast of himself, but rather, humbly gave his all to the people. Under his leadership, the Greater Life Baptist Church congregation has grown from forty-five to over three hundred members, giving many a safe place to come together and worship.

Pastor Manley was also a dedicated public servant and an incredibly active member of our community. He spent several years as a member of my staff when I was a Councilmember in the City of San Diego and as district staff to former Member of Congress, Randall Duke Cunningham.

Pastor Manley was a relentless champion for civil rights. He was the president and first

ever vice president of the San Diego branch of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His commitment was recognized globally and he was honored, in 2003, with the very prestigious Ambassador of Peace Award. The award is given to an individual who has promoted goodwill among all peoples without respect to one's race, creed, color, religion, or national origin. Pastor Manley did not only promote these values at home but also traveled extensively across the country and around the world promoting spiritual and religious harmony.

Pastor Manley was an outstanding individual, husband, father, preacher and friend to many. He was considerate, genuine and devoted to making this world a better, more just place. His leadership is sure to leave a lasting legacy. He will be missed by his family—his wife and seven children, and his San Diego community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during four votes of the second series on February 3, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on the amendment offered by Mr. ISSA to H.R. 1675, "No" on the amendment offered by Mrs. MALONEY to H.R. 1675, "No" on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions, and "Yes" on final passage of H.R. 1675, the Encouraging Employee Ownership Act of 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Roll Call Vote 61.

HONORING GREEK AMERICAN EDUCATORS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three remarkable and distinguished members of the Greek Orthodox community in the Tampa Bay area. These three Greek American educators continually demonstrate excellence in transmitting the value of Hellenic education to the next generation of scholars, tying historic Hellenic values and culture to today's contemporary policy and cultural discussions in the United States. Together, these scholars promote and enhance the teaching of our incredible culture and affect a change that enhances Hellenism throughout the world.

The V. Rev. Fr. James Rousakis, Vicar for Western Florida, is a dear friend from Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, Florida, who demonstrates a tireless effort to preserve the Greek-American Orthodox values and instill the Hellenic culture to the next generation of Greek-Americans. He has served the Orthodox faithful in Rochester, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Portland, Maine; Indianapolis, Indiana; Clearwater and now Tarpon Springs, Florida. With his boundless energy, Father James has helped to foster incredible growth in the membership and ministries at Holy Trinity.

The Honorable Steve Christopoulos is a remarkable educator and coordinator who continually puts forth a dynamic effort to organize almost a dozen charter schools in the Florida community. Born in Akovos, Greece, Christopoulos moved to the United States at the age of twelve and his family settled in Lynn, Massachusetts. After a rewarding career in commercial real estate, Christopoulos began his current leadership of Superior Schools, which operates numerous schools of choice throughout the Tampa area. His unwavering commitment to excellence sets him apart in the world of challenging and supportive educational environments. His dedication to Hellenic values and the superior learning environments he has created consistently produces outstanding citizens and Philhellenes.

Mrs. Catherine Diacogianni is a heralded educator who has contributed to our local Tampa Greek communities by teaching the Greek language and cultural history for over thirty years. After studying and working for the Red Cross in Athens early in her life, Diacogianni moved to Florida in 1977 and dedicated her life to teaching the Greek language to future generations as well as her peers. Despite a consistent tenure at Holy Trinity Greek School, Diacogianni also established the St. Stephanos Greek School in St. Petersburg where she worked tirelessly as teacher and director for 14 years. I am constantly in awe of Diacogianni's untiring efforts and passion to educate everyone she comes in contact with about the significance of Hellenic history and language so that it may live on in our community.

I commend the Federation of Hellenic American Educators and the Greek Teacher Association of Florida for highlighting these three pillars of our community, and I hope every American can learn from and emulate the determined efforts of these extraordinary educators.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 50 on Feb. 2, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NO.